

U.S. Application No. 09/699,019, filed October 27, 2000
Attorney Docket No. 15258US05
Amendment dated March 10, 2009
In Response to Office Action mailed December 10, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-66 are pending. Claims 1-25 and 31-53 are allowed. Claims 26-30 and 54-66 are rejected.

Claims 26-30 and 54-66 Cancelled

Claims 26-30 and 54-66 have been cancelled, without prejudice, to merely expedite the issuance of already allowed claims 1-25 and 31-53. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter that has been cancelled in a continuing and/or related application.

Claims 1-25 and 31-53 Allowed

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 1-25 and 31-53 are allowed.

New Dependent Claims 102-111 Depend From Allowed Independent Claims

Claims 102-111 are new dependent claims that depend from already allowed independent claims.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 102-111 are in condition for allowance.

New Independent Claims 67 and 85 Similar to Allowed Independent Claim 1

Applicants have added two new independent claims 67 and 85.

Independent claims 67 and 85 recite at least elements that are the same or similar to the elements recited in allowed independent claim 1.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that new independent claims 67 and 85 should be allowed in view of allowed independent claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 67 and 85 and their respective dependent claims (i.e., claims 68-84 and claims 86-101) are in condition for allowance.

U.S. Application No. 09/699,019, filed October 27, 2000

Attorney Docket No. 15258US05

Amendment dated March 10, 2009

In Response to Office Action mailed December 10, 2008

Present Application in Condition for Allowance

It is believed that the present application is condition for allowance.

Excess Fee Calculation

Applicants respectfully submit the following claims fee calculation:

Applicants now have pending: 93 total claims and 7 independent claims.

Applicants have previously paid for: 66 total claims and 9 independent claims.

Thus, Applicants have 27 excess total claims that were not previously paid for.

Excess claims fee due is 27 x \$52 = \$1404.

Conclusion

Applicants do not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter that has been withdrawn, amended and/or cancelled in a continuing and/or related application.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in

U.S. Application No. 09/699,019, filed October 27, 2000

Attorney Docket No. 15258US05

Amendment dated March 10, 2009

In Response to Office Action mailed December 10, 2008

condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: March 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael T. Cruz/

Michael T. Cruz

Reg. No. 44,636

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

500 West Madison Street, Suite 3400

Chicago, Illinois 60661

Telephone: (312) 775-8000

Facsimile: (312) 775-8100